

APPENDIX B

Aircraft Visual Identification System

B.1 GENERAL. This appendix delineates the visual identification system for naval aircraft and provides for assignment of aircraft markings and side numbers that identify aircraft of one unit from those of another. The system provides a means of rapid identification of Navy and Marine aircraft that is simple, flexible, and readily adaptable to expansion in the event of mobilization. Requests for changes or recommendations for assignment of identification letters to new or activated reserve units issued aircraft for custody shall be made to CNO (N781C) via the chain of command.

B.1.1 Unit Identification. CNO will assign unit identification letters for aircraft of air wings/groups and squadrons in accordance with the following guidelines.

B.1.1.1 Present Assignments. Identification letters presently assigned will be retained permanently regardless of transfers of units between fleets.

B.1.1.2 Future Assignments. Future assignments will consist of either a single letter (CNATRA) or a combination of any two letters or numbers indicated below:

Command	First Character	Second Character
NAVAIRLANT	A through M	A through Z
NAVAIRPAC	N through Z	A through Z
CNATRA	A through G	None

Note

Upon decommissioning, the identification letter will revert to CNO for future use.

B.1.1.3 Additional Identification Characters. Expansion of this system will be accomplished by assigning the numerals 2 through 9 as the first character in place of a letter.

B.1.1.4 Exceptions. The letters I and O are too easily confused with numerals and shall not be used.

B.1.1.5 Listing. Assigned visual identification letters/numbers are contained in the Naval Aeronautical Organization (OPNAV notice 5400).

B.1.1.6 Other Aircraft. Aircraft assigned to units other than those provided for above shall be identified by spelling out the name of the station or unit (i.e., NORFOLK, FORRESTAL, EL TORO, NIMITZ, YUMA, etc.).

B.1.2 Aircraft Side Numbers. Aircraft side numbers are assigned by force, wing, group, or squadron commanders, as appropriate. To achieve correlation between the electronic (IFF/SIF) and visual identification of each aircraft, combat and combat support aircraft shall be numbered using octal numbers (i.e., only the numerals 0 through 7).

B.1.2.1 Air Wings (CV) and Associated Squadrons. Appropriate commander shall use the

following for selection of squadron aircraft identification side numbers and colors:

Squadron	Side Number	Color
1 st VF Squadron	100 to 114	Insignia Red
2 nd VF Squadron or 3 rd VF Squadron	200 to 214	Orange-Yellow
1 st VFA Squadron	300 to 315	Light Blue
2 nd VFA Squadron	400 to 415	International Orange
VAQ	500 to 517	Maroon
VAW	600 to 603	Insignia Blue
HS/HC	610 to 617	Magenta
VS Squadron VS Tanker	700 to 707 710 to 717	Dark Green

B.1.2.3 Naval Air Training Command Squadrons and Units. Squadrons and units of CNA-TRA shall number their aircraft as directed by the Chief of Naval Air Training.

B.1.2.4 Fleet Replacement Squadrons.

Fleet replacement squadrons with aircraft employing the automatic precision approach and landing system (PALS) shall number their aircraft with three-digit octal numerals.

B.1.2.5 Other Units. Activities and units other than those included above shall number their aircraft by utilizing the last three digits of the bureau number.

B.1.3 Marking of Aircraft. The provisions of the current version of Military Specification for Insignia and Markings for Naval Aircraft (MIL-STD-2161A (AS)) apply in the implementation of the visual identification system.